



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
Northern District of New York*

---

*100 South Clinton Street*

*Room 900; P.O. Box 7198  
Syracuse, New York 13261-7198  
(315) 448-0672*

September 16, 2010

### **NEWS RELEASE**

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that JOSHUA RICE, 25, of Brewerton, New York was charged in federal court today with production of child pornography.

The federal criminal complaint filed in the case charges that RICE enticed a 12 year old child to take sexually explicit images and videos of himself, and then send them to RICE via text messaging.

United States District Judge Hon. David N. Hurd, ordered RICE to be held without bail pending a detention hearing, which is scheduled to take place in federal court on Tuesday, September 21, 2010.

RICE faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 15 years imprisonment, a maximum penalty of 30 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of no less than 5 years, and up to life. In addition, if convicted of this offense, RICE will be required to register as a sex offender.

RICE'S arrest was the result of an investigation by the New York State Police, assisted by the United States Secret Service. The joint effort is a part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/).

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Fletcher, who can be reached at 448-0672.

The charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.